



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 15-136
Released: January 29, 2015

COMMENTS INVITED ON APPLICATION OF CINCINNATI BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY LLC TO DISCONTINUE DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

WC Docket No. 14-266
Comp. Pol. File No. 1188

Comments Due: March 2, 2015

Section 214 Application

Applicant: Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC

On **October 30, 2014**, **Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC** (CBT or Applicant), located at **221 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202**, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) requesting authority, under section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and section 63.71 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue a certain domestic telecommunications service within CBT's service areas in the Bethel, Ohio and Fairfield, Ohio wire centers (Service Areas).

CBT indicates that it currently offers Voice Grade Service in the Service Areas (Affected Service) as described in CBT's FCC Tariff No. 35 and CBT's intrastate Ohio Access Tariff PUCO No. 2. CBT explains that its Voice Grade Service consists of channels which provide voice frequency transmission capability in the nominal frequency range of 300 to 3000 Hz and may be terminated two-wire or four-wire. According to CBT, Voice Grade channels are provided between customer designated premises, between a customer designated premises and a Telephone Company hub or as a WATS Access Line (WAL) between a customer designated premises and a WATS Serving Office (WSO). CBT indicates, however, that Voice Grade Service has declined as customers move to faster Ethernet-based services. In the application, CBT asserts, for example, that there are no more than eight customers that currently receive the Affected Service in the Service Areas. In its notice to customers, CBT also states that it is in the process of expanding the reach of its fiber optic network and removing equipment from the network that no longer meets its standards for reliability and performance. CBT indicates that it now plans to discontinue Voice Grade Service in the Service Areas on or after March 1, 2015, subject to Commission authorization. CBT, nevertheless, maintains that the public convenience and necessity will not be impaired by the proposed discontinuance given the small number of affected customers. According to CBT, notification letters were sent via U.S. mail on October 17, 2014 to inform affected customers of the proposed discontinuance. CBT indicates that it is considered dominant with respect to the service to be discontinued.

In accordance with section 63.71(c) of the Commission's rules, CBT's application will be deemed to be granted automatically on the 60th day after the release date of this public notice, unless the Commission notifies CBT that the grant will not be automatically effective. In its notice to customers,

CBT indicates that it plans to discontinue Voice Grade Service in the Service Areas on or after March 1, 2015, subject to Commission authorization. Accordingly, pursuant to section 63.71(c) and the terms of CBT's application, absent further Commission action, CBT may discontinue its Voice Grade Service in the Service Areas on or after **March 30, 2015**. The Commission normally will authorize proposed discontinuances of service unless it is shown that customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity would be otherwise adversely affected.

Comments objecting to this application must be filed with the Commission on or before **March 2, 2015**. Such comments should refer to **WC Docket No. 14-266 and Comp. Pol. File No. 1188**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance on the commenter, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998). Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the Web site for submitting comments. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission. All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. The filing hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Two copies of the comments should also be sent to the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-C140, Washington, D.C. 20554, Attention: Carmell Weathers. In addition, comments should be served upon the Applicant. Commenters are also requested to fax their comments to the FCC at (202) 418-1413, Attention: Carmell Weathers.

This proceeding is considered a "permit but disclose" proceeding for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules.¹ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.*, .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (tty).

For further information, contact Carmell Weathers, (202) 418-2325 (voice), Carmell.Weathers@fcc.gov, or Rodney McDonald, (202) 418-7513 (voice), Rodney.McDonald@fcc.gov, of the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau. The tty number is (202) 418-0484. For further information on procedures regarding section 214 please visit http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/cpd/other_adjud.

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